BENGALURU, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 25 | Min 14 | Humidity 43% Mostly sunny Sensex 85,041 | Nifty 26,042 | Gold 1,39,761 | Silver 2,35,097 | Dollar 89.77 | Euro 105.79 | GBP 121.39

GREEN COVER BLOWN

Hundreds of trees likely to make way for sewage treatment plants, road-widening projects and other infra work

PAGE 5

HIGHLY INFLAMMABLE

Illegally transported cargo to and from B'luru turning travel into potential death trap as many of these goods are prohibited items

PAGE 10

As 1,180 gun licences are cancelled in past 15 months with most cancellations from East Division, police say licence is revoked if individuals no longer meet eligibility criteria or were found violating conditions under Arms Act

ARMS AND THE MAN

Many legal heirs remain unaware of their potent inheritance, and lose licences

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru City Police have cancelled as many as 1,180 gun licences over the last 15 months, out of which 946 licences were found to be still registered in the names of deceased persons.

According to official data, 219 gun licences were cancelled due to non-renewal, while 15 licence holders failed to purchase weapons. Joint Commissioner of Police (Administration) Kuldeep Kumar Jain said the data pertains to the past 12–15 months, which is reflected as a year-long clean-up drive that led to the cancellation of several gun licences.

The East Division topped the city with 193 licence cancellations, including 92 cases of non-renewal, making it the leading division for gun licence revocations. Senior police officials say that it is routine exercise to review arms licences issued to individuals who no longer meet the eligibility criteria or were found violating conditions laid down under the Arms Act.

There were 162 cancellations in north division,133 in south, 93

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

> **"Since firearms are purchased with a purpose, heirs often remain unaware of licence renewal dates or the legal requirements. When a weapon remains in someone else's physical custody, this lack of awareness leads to violation of rules and hence becomes illegal**
>
> —Police official

Where do barricades go to die?

Town Hall or Ravindra Kalakshetra apparently, where one can find abandoned barricades — even those that belong to faraway police stations

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Barricades play a vital role in cities, especially when protests are organised as police use them to prevent or stop things getting out of hand. Many business establishments come forward to donate portable steel barricades to police as it serves double purpose – publicity as well as helping police regulate protests. But guess what happens to such barricades in Bengaluru? They get dumped near the Town Hall and now the abandoned barricades have become an eyesore for those visiting the Town Hall or Ravindra Kalakshetra.

Surprisingly one steel barricade, donated by Indus to Kothanur Police Station, was found on the premises of Ravindra Kalakshetra. Kothanur Police Station is 18 km away from Ravindra Kalakshetra. Another barricade, belonging to Pulakeshinagar Police Station, is also lying on Ravindra Kalakshetra premises. The distance between Pulakeshinagar Police Station and Ravindra Kalakshetra is around 8 km.

One can see many barricades dumped along the compound of the Town Hall. A barricade, belonging to HAL Traffic Police

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Stage drama

Ruchika Theatre Group presents Barbaad, Hindi adaptation of Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer-winning Ruined, exploring conflict, exploitation, and survival. Originally slated for 2020, the production is revived in 2025. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: January 2, 7:30 pm**

02 Theatrical comedy

Ruchika Theatre Group presents Jigsaw , A contemporary comedy about identity, parentage, and relationships, featuring an ensemble cast spanning five decades. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: January 3, 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm**

03 New-Year revelry

SOCIAL will ring in the New Year with SOCIAL ANIMALS, a pan-India celebration across all its outlets. Built around instinct-led partying, the concept lets guests follow the music, mood and their own rhythm. **Where: All SOCIAL outlets in Bengaluru; When: December 31, 7 pm onwards**

04 Countdown party

Ring in the New Year with a high-energy countdown party. Headlined by DJ Divss, with special appearances by Aritra Ganguli and RJ Praveen, the night promises chart-topping music, a glamorous ambience, handcrafted cocktails and festive vibes. **Where: Dobaraa Gastropub, Phoenix Mall of Asia, Bengaluru When: December 31, 8 pm onwards**

05 Living canvas

Sublime Galleria hosts Tranquil Balance, an exhibition by Pragya Jain, co-founder of Artychoke. The collection explores nature's quiet rhythms, celebrating elements that sustain life—air, water, nourishment, love, and growth. Through geometry, lines, and shifting forms, Jain reflects on culture, heritage, and human stories. **Where: Sublime Galleria, 8th Floor, UB City; When: Running till January 4**

Rank race has left entire education system gasping

Schools in Karnataka push weekend classes, extra tests, and senior officer oversight to boost pass rates, sparking student stress and teacher anxiety

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It is no longer just SSLC students burning the midnight oil to secure good marks. Across Karnataka, entire schools and education offices are doing the same, driven by the relentless push to make it into the State's top 10 district rankings. From Bengaluru's crowded classrooms to small-town government schools, academic results have turned into a collective mission, with teachers, headmasters and officials as invested in rankings as the students themselves.

Examinations pressure intensifies as teachers extend hours, pupils face burnout, administrators track outcomes, critics warn learning depth sacrificed amid competitive performance culture

Extra measures

To arrest slipping positions, education departments and district administrations have rolled out a range of measures that go far beyond routine classroom teaching. "Weekend classes have become the norm, with Saturdays turned into full working days and Sundays reserved for special coaching. Evening remedial classes, revision marathons and repeated preparatory tests are being pushed aggressively, particularly for slow learners. In many schools, teachers are voluntarily, and sometimes under quiet pressure, spending extra hours to boost pass percentages," said an education department official.

One of the most visible strategies is the adoption of low-performing schools by senior officials. "Deputy Commissioners, Zilla Panchayat CEOs and other officers are assigned specific schools, especially those with pass percentages below 50, and are held accountable for improvement. Regular review meetings at taluk and district levels monitor school-wise performance, turning academic results into an administrative priority. While officials say this ensures closer monitoring, teachers admit it has added to performance anxiety," said another officer.

Teacher training programmes, curriculum-based assessments and strict evaluation methods are being enforced across districts. "Model question papers from the State Examination Board are circulated widely, and students are trained to answer in formats that maximise marks. Answer scripts of high scorers are analysed in classrooms, and subject-wise handbooks are prepared to ensure no topic is missed. The focus is clear: avoid failures at all costs and push every student across the pass line," said Vidya Kumar, a school principal.

Student pressure

For students, especially those in Class 10, the pressure is unmistakable. Frequent tests, constant revision and an unspoken expectation to deliver results have made the final year intense. "While some benefit from the structured support, others struggle with exam fear and burnout. Schools are also being asked to work on students' mental readiness, even as academic targets continue to rise," said Michael John, a parent.

Education officials argue that these measures are necessary to improve learning outcomes and restore Karnataka's academic standing. However, educators quietly question whether the obsession with district rankings is overshadowing holistic education. "As the race to the top 10 intensifies year after year, schools across Karnataka are being pushed to do whatever it takes, raising the larger question of whether success is being measured by genuine learning or merely by the numbers on a results sheet," said Mohammed Rafi, a Class 10 student.

Students locked out of new campus

A newly inaugurated academic block at Nrupathunga University, in the heart of Bengaluru, has been locked barely two months after its opening, leaving students stunned and frustrated. The eight-storey building, inaugurated in October and built under the RUSA 2.0 scheme, is yet to be opened for regular academic use, turning a much-hyped launch into a shock for nearly 2,000 postgraduate students who were promised modern classrooms and laboratories.

Constructed at a cost of ₹52.08 crore from a total RUSA grant of ₹55 crore, the new block houses 28 classrooms and fully equipped laboratories, with an additional ₹2.18 crore spent on laboratory equipment. However, citing examinations, the university administration has now shut the building, forcing students to continue using cramped and outdated laboratories on the old campus. Students complain that faulty equipment and overcrowding are affecting practical sessions across biology, biotechnology, botany and microbiology courses. While enrolment at the five-year-old university continues to rise each year, the locked facility has left students feeling that the campus exists only on paper. **— BMB**

Recognition delay hits SSLC students

Even as board examination dates draw closer, the process of granting first-time recognition to newly opened private schools and renewing approvals for existing ones remains incomplete, raising serious concerns within the education sector. The exercise, which is meant to be completed at the start of the academic year, has once again been extended until February, with the education department allowing more time for applications, inspections and approvals. This delay has also slowed the identification of unauthorised schools across Bengaluru and other parts of the state.

Nitya Kumar, a parent, said, "The prolonged process has created technical hurdles in registering thousands of Class 10 students from hundreds of schools for the SSLC examination. Schools that fail to meet prescribed norms or do not receive timely renewal risk being classified as unauthorised, leaving students in a vulnerable position." Every year, as exams approach, students who have attended classes throughout the year are forced to register under different recognised schools at the last minute. While officials insist that students will not be affected, critics question why the department repeatedly fails to complete the recognition process at the beginning of the academic year, allowing the uncertainty to persist year after year. **— BMB**

Hesaraghatta grassland gets major boost

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has directed the Forest Department to allocate funds for the development and conservation of Hesaraghatta Grassland.

On December 27, Khandre inspected 5,678 acres of the grassland, declared a Conservation Reserve last year. He emphasised that precautions must be taken to prevent contamination of Hesaraghatta Lake from domestic or industrial waste. "Conservation should allow local villagers free access to graze their cattle. Efforts must involve locals and village panchayats," Khandre said. He added that, as the grassland is vital for breeding and nesting birds, local and fruit-bearing trees should be planted around the site. The Minister suggested using CSR funds, in coordination with the Minor Irrigation Department, BWSSB, and local bodies, for comprehensive conservation. Hesaraghatta was declared a Conservation Reserve in October 2024 to curb human interference and protect its biodiversity. Experts say local livelihoods are safe; public access rules coming soon. **— BMB**

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Newly upgraded footpath on Kanakapura Road in ruins

Residents demand clearing encroachments and restoring Kanakapura Road footpath, citing unsafe conditions, illegal parking, and neglected maintenance by authorities

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KAUSHIK JN

Continuous road works raise corruption and accountability concerns among locals

If the poor condition of the footpath on Kanakapura Road is anything to go by, it appears that the authorities concerned are interested only in spending public money and not in maintaining basic pedestrian infrastructure. The footpath on 80 Ft Road near KSIT College was developed a few months ago as part of the development of a high-density corridor. However, residents, particularly pedestrians and senior citizens, are now finding it extremely difficult to walk on the footpath due to rampant encroachments and illegal parking of vehicles.

Residents have demanded that the authorities clear all encroachments and restore the footpath exclusively for pedestrian use. "Around 500 metres of the footpath has been damaged due to the movement of heavy vehicles used by building contractors. The tiles are either removed or broken in front of properties where construction work is underway. The authorities spent a huge amount of money developing the footpath, but it has fallen into ruins within just a few months," said Gautam Kamath, a resident.

Echoing similar concerns, Prakash J, a resident of Liberty Square Apartment, said that building contractors and business establishments, including banks, have occupied a major portion of the footpath. "There is hardly any space left for pedestrians to walk. The authorities concerned have failed to maintain the footpath by turning a blind eye to the dumping of construction material and illegal parking of vehicles on the footpath. I demand that authorities ensure no construction material is dumped and compel contractors to restore the footpath damaged by them," he said. Expressing disgust over the pending work, another resident, Dr Bengeri, said he observed that the development of the footpath was incomplete at several locations, leaving pedestrians to navigate unsafe and uneven surfaces daily.

A resident, speaking on the condition of anonymity, alleged that Kanakapura Road has become a golden goose for corrupt engineers from the Greater Bengaluru Authority, Bengaluru South City Corporation, or Bangalore Development Authority. "There is no end to developmental work on this road. One department or another is always undertaking some project. It is a continuous process throughout the year. I would be happy if the authorities spent a few hours inspecting ongoing or completed developmental works," the resident said.

> **"The tiles on the footpath are either removed or broken in front of properties where construction work is in progress**
> – Gautam Kamath, resident

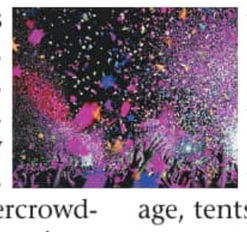
Meanwhile, BDA engineer Vivek said he would inform the assistant executive engineer to investigate the issue raised by residents. However, BDA assistant executive engineer Sharath was not available for comment despite repeated attempts.

101 rail overbridges to decongest city

With traffic congestion tightening its grip on Bengaluru, plans have been drawn up to construct rail overbridges at 101 level crossings in and around the city. Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna said focused infrastructure development around Bidadi and neighbouring areas would help ease traffic pressure on Bengaluru. Strengthening suburban rail networks, he said, is crucial to limiting the daily inflow of commuters into the city. Somanna added that upgrading Bidadi railway station with better passenger facilities could encourage people to use local hubs instead of travelling into the city. He also noted three to four approach roads. **— BMB**

New year celebrations under tight safety net

With the New Year approaching, Bengaluru is gearing up for celebrations with heightened focus on safety and security. The city police commissioner stated that New Year revelry venues will operate only until 1 am, prioritising safety of women, children, and senior citizens. Alcohol consumption by staff is strictly prohibited, and provocative music or overcrowding will not be tolerated. Organisers must ensure proper fire safety equipment, emergency exits, alternate power supply, and effective crowd management while distributing entry passes according to venue capacity. CCTV cameras are mandatory at all event spaces, with recordings preserved for at least 30 days. Authorities emphasise strict compliance to ensure smooth, safe, and enjoyable celebrations for all residents across Bengaluru this New Year.



Enhanced policing

Key celebration hubs such as MG Road, Church Street, Koramangala, Brigade Road, and Residency Road have enhanced police deployment, vehicle checks, and canine squads. Certain streets will have restricted access, with vehicles required to park at designated distant areas or use the metro. CCTV coverage, tents, ambulances, and medical personnel are in place.

Venue compliance

Hotels, pubs, and clubs have been briefed on compliance requirements, with authorities warning that violations could invite strict legal action. In Koramangala, Indiranagar and other popular celebration areas, police are coordinating crowd control measures to ensure a safe, secure, and smooth New Year experience for all Bengaluru residents. **— BMB**

T1 arrivals get parking relief

Kempegowda International Airport has announced that free parking at Terminal 1 arrival pick-up areas P3 and P4 has been increased from 10 minutes to 15 minutes, effective Friday, following stakeholder feedback. To support passenger movement, shuttle services running every seven minutes, along with six cars and ten buggies, will operate between the terminal and the P3 and P4 pick-up zones. BIAL said the move is aimed at improving passenger movement and managing traffic at arrival areas. **— BMB**

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Public eyesore

Halasuru

Several old and abandoned vehicles have been lying unattended for years near Halasuru Gate Police Station, opposite Punjab National Bank and the Sessions Court, behind Mission Church.

Sanitation lapse

Medehalli

Garbage dumping has become a daily occurrence at Karna Sree Layout on Medahalli Road towards Parvati Nagar, with no regular cleaning in place.

Platform congestion

Mahalakshmi

Shop boards installed on platform at Mahalakshmi Metro Station reduce walking space, forcing commuters to navigate daily despite repeated complaints.

CRIME FILES

Man stabs wife's throat after quarrel, surrenders

A 39-year-old woman was allegedly murdered by her husband following a heated argument at their residence in Agrahara Layout, under the jurisdiction of Sampigehalli police station, on Saturday between 3 am to 6 am.

The deceased has been identified as Ayesha Siddiqui, who was working at a massage parlour. Her husband, Syed Jabi, has been arrested and is currently in police custody. Preliminary investigations revealed that frequent quarrels had been taking place between the couple over Ayesha's profession. Police said the accused had repeatedly objected to her working at a massage parlour and had been pressuring her to quit her job. On the night of the incident, the couple reportedly got into another intense argument over the same matter. In a fit of rage, Syed Jabi allegedly attacked Ayesha with a pair of scissors used for tailoring and stabbed her in the throat, killing her on the spot, police officials said.

Following the incident, the accused is said to have left the house and directly gone to the Sampigehalli police station, where he surrendered and confessed to the crime. Based on his statement, police rushed to the scene, conducted an inspection, and sent the body for postmortem examination. **–BMB**

Man accused of suicide abetment ends life

A Bengaluru man accused of abetting the suicide of his wife ended his life in a hotel in Nagpur on Saturday, while his mother later attempted suicide out of shock at the turn of events, a police official said.

The incident took place at a hotel on Wardha Road, the Sonegaon police station official added. "Suraj Shivanna (36), a resident of BEL Layout in Bengaluru's Vidyaranyapura, hanged himself from a ceiling fan. His wife Ganvi had committed suicide on December 22 in Vidyaranyapura police limits just one-and-half months after marriage. Suraj was booked for abetment of suicide on the complaint of her parents," the official said. "Alleging threats from Ganvi's kin, Suraj, his younger brother Sanjay (35), and their mother Jayanti Shivanna (60) left for Hyderabad and then arrived here on December 26. After coming to know about Suraj's death, Jayanti also attempted suicide but was saved by Sanjay. She is admitted to AIIMS here," the official added. A case of accidental death has been registered and Sanjay's statement has been recorded, he said. **–PTI**

Police nab trio after scooter harassment video goes viral

Suddaguntepalya police have arrested three people, including a minor, for allegedly harassing a woman riding a scooter on the BTM Layout–Silk Board stretch of Bengaluru, after a video of the incident went viral on social media.

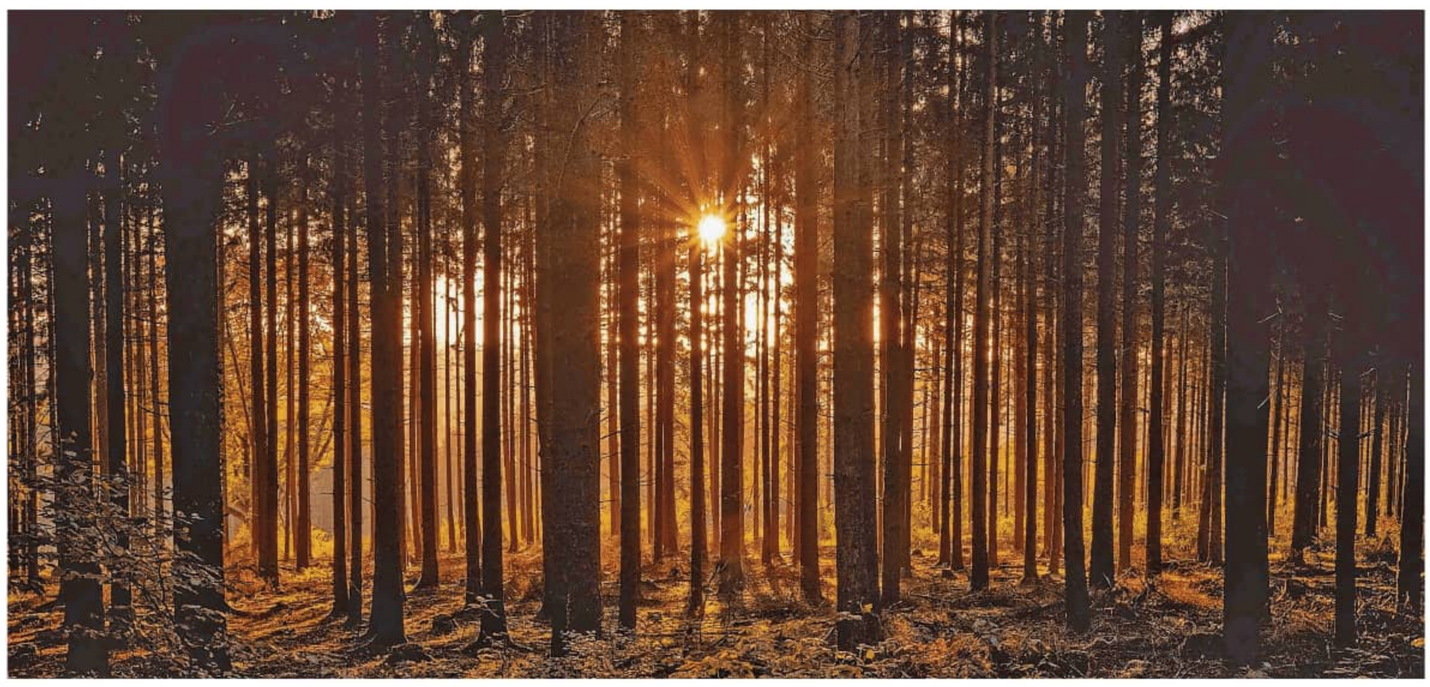
The incident occurred before 10 pm on December 25, when the woman was followed for nearly two kilometres by three men riding triple on a single motorcycle. Viral footage, recorded by a motorist travelling behind them, shows the men riding recklessly without helmets, repeatedly coming close to the woman's scooter in an apparent attempt to intimidate her. The woman appeared visibly distressed as she tried to escape from the group.

The eyewitness, a car driver, began recording the incident on his mobile phone and later shared the video online, tagging the Bengaluru Traffic Police and city police officials. The clip quickly gained widespread attention, drawing strong condemnation and raising concerns over women's safety during late-night travel in the city.

Acting on the video, Suddaguntepalya police identified the motorcycle through its registration number and traced the accused. The arrested individuals have been identified as Roshan (19) and Ayan (19), both employed at chicken shops, and an 18-year-old who works at a garage. Police said appropriate legal action has been initiated, and further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

Trees become collateral damage as infra grows

City's fast-shrinking green cover faces further damage due to planned infrastructure and road expansion works



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Proposals to fell over 1,100 trees across multiple Bengaluru locations have drawn criticism from activists who urge authorities to explore alternatives and minimise environmental damage

Hundreds of trees in the city are likely to be cut to make way for various infrastructure development projects.

As per public notices recently issued by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), 665 trees have been proposed for felling in Mailasandra and Doddabele for the construction of sewage treatment plants by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), while 72 trees of various species are proposed to be felled on Ejipura Inner Ring Road for a road-widening project by Bangalore Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE).

The Vrishabhavathi Valley division of BWSSB has submitted an application to remove 355 trees at the BWSSB Doddabele premises for the construction of a 100 MLD sewage treatment plant. Similarly, 310 trees at the BWSSB premises in Mailasandra are proposed for felling for another 100 MLD STP.

The two STPs are part of BWSSB's 17 sewage treatment plants, with a combined capacity to treat 583 million litres of sewage daily, addressing Bengaluru's current treatment shortfall.

BWSSB currently supplies 2,225 MLD of water daily to Bengaluru from the Cauvery. Of this, 1,440 MLD becomes wastewater, of which 1,212 MLD is treated and supplied to various organisations across the city.

City-based tree activists and environmentalists say that, despite Bengaluru's rapidly disappearing green cover, the easiest solution government agencies seem to adopt for infrastructure development is to cut down trees.

"More than 600 trees being felled for STPs is not a small number. BWSSB should be answerable if they have considered ways to reduce this number. Has the Board conducted any feasibility analysis on how tree loss can be minimised? Given the city's current scenario, GBA should entertain such applications only if the agencies have conducted an analysis to minimise tree felling," said a city-based environmentalist.

Digital push ends fixers

The Karnataka government has rolled out sweeping reforms to simplify the land conversion process while introducing tough penalties to curb misuse. Under the Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Rules, 2025, land conversion procedures have been moved online to reduce litigation and public inconvenience, with revenue courts now functioning digitally and hearings permitted through online platforms. Digital orders have been made mandatory, and exemptions have been extended for land conversion linked to the establishment of small industries.

A Revenue Department official said, "At the same time, the government has warned of strict action against violations. Any attempt to secure land conversion using fake documents will result in immediate cancellation of the conversion, forfeiture of the land and fees paid, a fine of up to ₹1 lakh, and the registration of criminal cases. Continued violations can attract a daily penalty of ₹2,500."

Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda said the final notification, issued on December 23 and amending the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964, is aimed at ending illegal practices carried out in the name of land conversion and making the department more transparent and citizen-friendly. Under the revised rules, agricultural land within approved master plan areas can now be converted for non-agricultural use without prior approval from the district collector, with online applications automatically updating revenue records, marking a major shift in Bengaluru's land governance framework. **–BMB**

Acid attack victim compensated after 37 years

In a rare and deeply moving case, a woman who survived a brutal acid attack by her husband has finally received compensation, 37 years after the crime. The Shivamogga District Legal Services Authority has sanctioned ₹7 lakh as relief, treating the case as a special one on humanitarian grounds. The attack, driven by the husband's suspicion and jealousy over his wife's appearance, left her with severe burns from her face to her knees and pushed her into decades of medical treatment and financial hardship.

Despite applying for a pension and assistance earlier, the survivor received no relief from the local administration and eventually approached the Legal Services Authority. After reviewing her case, the authority found that she had never been compensated and referred the case to the State body Compensation was finally released, decades after the 1988 assault and the accused's 1994 life sentence. **–BMB**

Transfer norms hit constables

Conditional guidelines issued by the police department on zone and inter-district transfers have left Bengaluru police constables, many of whom have decades of service, in distress. While the Karnataka Police introduced special transfer rules in 2023 to facilitate mutual inter-district transfers, the conditions laid down in guidelines released in July 2024 have made the process increasingly complex and restrictive.

Although husband-and-wife cases are prioritised in DAR, CAR and civil police transfers, constables allege long service is being ignored and transferees treated like fresh recruits. The government insists priority applies only to those meeting strict conditions, while only online applications will be considered, deepening uncertainty over postings. **–BMB**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

FROLIC AND FORAGE

Our reader shares a charming image of an Indian Palm Squirrel nibbling food near a towering tree in front of the Shri Bhoganandishwara Temple, nestled at the foothills of Nandi Hills. The playful squirrel, seen frolicking with another before both pause to forage, captures a lighter moment in nature's relentless cycle—where joy and survival quietly unfold side by side.

The picture was clicked by reader **Sridhar Comaravalli**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

PRR: Landowners offered record compensation

Village-wise negotiated packages, touching Rs 15.6 crore per acre, aim to unlock stalled Bengaluru Peripheral Ring Road project quickly now

Landowners giving up land for the Bengaluru Peripheral Ring Road project (PRR-1) are being offered sharply higher compensation under the principles of the new land acquisition policy, with negotiated rates going up to Rs 15.60 crore per acre in some villages. The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has fixed village-wise compensation packages and reports that several farmers have already agreed to the negotiated settlement. Around 100 acres have so far been cleared for acquisition, signalling momentum for the long-pending corridor project that is expected to ease traffic pressure around the city.

Sources said landowners whose properties are being acquired for the PRR have been offered five compensation options, including full cash compensation, residential sites, commercial sites, Transferable Development Rights (TDR), Floor Area Ratio (FAR), or a combination of these. Once consent letters are received, the BDA will initiate the formal acquisition process.

To speed up procedures, four officials have been appointed exclusively to handle land acquisition-related work. Details of village-wise negotiated compensation, along with TDR and FAR values, have been uploaded on the BDA website to ensure transparency and help landowners make informed choices.

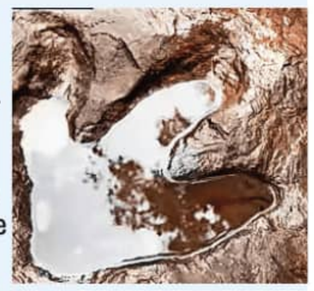
Compensation has been fixed based on the location of land along the corridor. In Venkatala village of Yelahanka taluk, negotiated cash compensation has been set at Rs 15.60 crore per acre, while in Kothanur village it stands at Rs 14.64 crore per acre. Officials said these rates are several times higher than the compensation payable under the Land Acquisition Act of 1894. Final notices have been issued to several landowners, asking them to submit consent letters within 15 days. Once documents are submitted, the authority has committed to issuing cash compensation, provisional TDR certificates, or eligibility letters for residential or commercial sites within the next 15 days.

A senior official said those who fail to submit consent letters within the stipulated period will be compensated under the older Act, with the standard award and nine percent interest deposited in court. Of the total 1,810 acres proposed for acquisition, final notifications had already been issued in 2008 for 948 acres, though compensation was never paid. For these parcels, officials said a legal amendment will be required to extend benefits under the new policy. Officials said Cabinet approval is expected soon, which could unlock stalled parcels and bring long-awaited clarity to affected landowners across. **— BMB**

Higher negotiated compensation and flexible options like TDR and FAR are helping BDA secure landowner consent for the long-delayed PRR corridor.

DID YOU KNOW?

Italian palaeontologists have uncovered thousands of dinosaur footprints on a near-vertical rock face more than 2,000 metres above sea level in Stelvio National Park, calling it one of the world's richest Triassic-period track sites. The discovery lies in the high-altitude glacial Valle di Fraele near Bormio, a venue for the Milan–Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics. The tracks, some measuring up to 40 cm wide and preserving clear claw marks, extend for nearly five kilometres across steep rock walls. Cristiano Dal Sasso of Milan's Natural History Museum described the site as among the most spectacular he has seen in 35 years. Experts believe the footprints were left by herds of long-necked herbivorous dinosaurs, likely plateosaurus, over 200 million years ago when the region was a warm coastal lagoon along the ancient Tethys Ocean. According to ichnologist Fabio Massimo Petti, the soft tidal mud captured fine anatomical details of toes and claws before hardening into rock. Later tectonic movements that formed the Alps tilted the seabed vertically, preserving the tracks on a mountainside. The inaccessible area will now be studied using drones and remote-sensing technology.— **Reuters**



GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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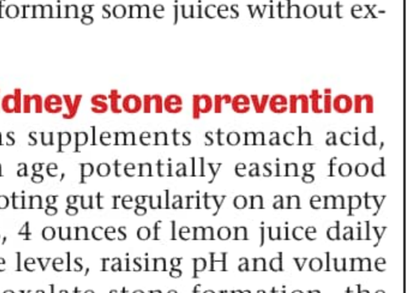
Lemon water, fact-checked: Real health benefits, dental risks, and how to drink it safely

Claim: Drinking lemon water daily dramatically burns fat, detoxifies organs, boosts metabolism, cures digestive problems, and guarantees glowing skin and immunity regardless of diet, hydration, dental health, or medical conditions worldwide.
Fact: Scientific evidence shows lemon water mainly improves hydration, supplies vitamin C and citrate, and may help prevent kidney stones, but it does not detoxify organs, melt fat, or replace diet.



Drinking lemon water offers a simple way to enhance daily hydration while delivering vitamin C and citric acid benefits, though its acidity demands precautions for oral health. A glass made from one whole lemon (about 48 grams of juice) provides low calories, antioxidants, and nutrients that support immunity and digestion without added sugars. Scientific evidence confirms targeted advantages like kidney stone prevention, but exaggerated claims such as dramatic weight loss or detoxification lack robust human studies. Starting the day with lemon water rehydrates the body after overnight fasting, promoting better fluid intake for those who struggle with plain water. Room-temperature or slightly warm water maximizes vitamin C extraction from fresh lemons, making it an easy habit over sugary alternatives.

Vitamin C and antioxidant support

Lemons deliver significant vitamin C, an antioxidant that aids collagen production for skin health, iron absorption, and immune function. This nutrient protects cells from oxidative stress, potentially reducing infection risk, fatigue, and dry skin when intake is sufficient. One lemon's juice in water meets a portion of daily needs, outperforming some juices without excess calories.

Digestion and kidney stone prevention

Citric acid in lemons supplements stomach acid, which declines with age, potentially easing food breakdown and promoting gut regularity on an empty stomach. For kidneys, 4 ounces of lemon juice daily increases urine citrate levels, raising pH and volume to prevent calcium oxalate stone formation, the most common type. The National Kidney Foundation endorses this as a complementary remedy alongside medical advice, though full prevention requires broader hydration and treatments.

Tooth enamel erosion risks

Citric acid erodes enamel by softening its mineral structure through demineralization, increasing sensitivity, yellowing, and cavity risk with frequent exposure. Prolonged contact worsens damage, so sipping slowly or holding in the mouth amplifies harm compared to quick consumption. Using a straw minimizes tooth contact, protecting enamel while retaining benefits.

How to Prepare Safely

Squeeze juice from one fresh lemon into 8-12 ounces of water, preferring warm or room temperature for optimal nutrient release. Avoid boiling water, which degrades vitamin C, and rinse mouth with plain water afterward to neutralize acids. Limit to 1-2 glasses daily, skipping fad cleanses that replace meals, these risk nutrient deficiencies and are not evidence-based for weight loss. **— ET Online**

THE SUNDAY READ

Screens to memories

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Closure of iconic theatres like Urvashi marks fading era of communal cinema experience, nostalgic memories, and cultural city fabric

Urvashi Theatre, near Lalbagh on Siddaiah Road, has long been one of Bengaluru's most recognisable single screens

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Bengaluru's busiest bus stand (Kempegowda bus stand) is called Majestic not because it is grand, but because buses once stopped near a cinema hall named Majestic. The same city grew up with bus stops called Nataraja, Nanda and Sujatha, named after theatres that anchored neighbourhood life. Today, none of these theatres exist. Only the names remain, floating in everyday speech like old dialogue lines. As the list of shuttered single screens grows longer, the latest to prepare for its final show is Urvashi, one of the city's most iconic movie halls.

Street geography

For decades, cinema halls were Bengaluru's unofficial map markers. Directions were given using theatres, not landmarks. "Get down near Rex", "turn after Kapali", "meet me at Menaka" were part of daily language. Single screens were woven into the city's social fabric, doubling up as meeting points, weekend plans and cultural hubs. They were must-visit spots for film lovers and casual viewers alike, places where cinema was a shared, noisy and joyful experience. Today, malls and glass-fronted offices stand where posters once announced first-day-first-shows.

Curtain call

Urvashi Theatre, near Lalbagh on Siddaiah Road, has long been one of Bengaluru's most recognisable single screens. Built in 1970, it was among the largest of its kind, with a seating capacity of around 1,100, a massive screen and technology that kept pace with changing times. It screened films in multiple languages and enjoyed a reputation for strong collections. For several actors and producers, Urvashi was considered a key release centre. Now, the theatre is set to close in February, with demolition expected to follow.

Behind the scenes

The immediate reason for Urvashi's closure is a land dispute. The theatre was constructed on leased land, with the lease period ending in 2018. Legal disagreements between the leaseholders and landowners delayed matters for years. With the land reportedly reclaimed, the curtain is finally coming down. "It feels like a personal loss," said Prakash, a 60-year-old moviegoer who watched his first film there as a teenager. "Urvashi was not just a hall. It was an emotion."

Vanishing acts

Urvashi joins a long roll call of single screens that have disappeared from Bengaluru's landscape. Kapali, once Asia's largest single screen, shut in 2017 and is now being converted as a multiplex anchored by a Telugu superstar. Cauvery closed in 2024, ending a nostalgic run for audiences of the 1970s to 1990s. Rex, Abhinay, Kailash, Tribhuvan, Menaka, Nataraj, Movieland, Minerva and Shanti have all faded out. In many cases, malls or commercial complexes have taken their place, promising better returns than cinema halls struggling to fill seats.

Changing tastes

The rise of OTT platforms has dramatically altered viewing habits. Films now reach homes within weeks, sometimes days, of release. Audiences can watch at their convenience, pausing and replaying at will. "Why spend on tickets and travel when everything is on your phone or TV?" asked Avinash Das, a college student near Jayanagar. Multiplexes, usually housed inside malls, add to the pressure, offering multiple screens, food courts and parking, making them a preferred choice for families and young viewers.

Money matters

Financial sustainability has long been a challenge for single-screen theatres. High maintenance costs for ageing buildings, combined with steadily declining revenues, have put many halls under pressure. The introduction of GST dealt a heavy blow; tickets below Rs 100 were initially taxed at 18%, while those above Rs 100 attracted 28%, sharply cutting into already thin margins. Although the rates were later reduced; 5% for tickets under Rs 100 and 18% for tickets above from September 22, 2025; the relief came too late for many. "Running a single-screen theatre is no longer profitable," said a Kannada film distributor. "Many owners find it easier to convert the property into commercial complexes or wedding halls, which provide assured income."

Star factor

Distributors also point to fewer big-star releases. With leading actors appearing in fewer films each year, single screens struggle to sustain footfalls beyond the opening weeks. "When a big film releases, theatres do well for a short while. After that, there is a long lull," said another distributor. Without a steady stream of crowd-pullers, single screens are left playing to half-empty halls.

Audience applause

For loyal patrons, the loss is deeply personal. "Watching a film at a single screen was a collective experience," said Lakshmi, a homemaker from Basavanagudi. "People clapped, shouted and celebrated together. You do not get that on OTT." Younger viewers agree. "These theatres had character. They made Bengaluru feel like a film city," said Ankit, a software professional.

Fade to black

As Urvashi prepares to switch off its projector for the last time, it symbolises more than the end of a theatre. It marks the slow fading of an era when cinema halls shaped Bengaluru's identity, from bus stand names to weekend rituals. Films will keep releasing, and audiences will keep watching, but the stage has changed. Just as Bengaluru's Majestic bus stand still echoes the theatre that gave it its name, and stops like Nataraja, Nanda, or Sujatha whisper of cinemas that no longer exist, single screens, the city's once-shining stars are fading into memory, surviving only in stories, names, and nostalgia.

Urvashi's closing is not merely about one theatre shutting down; it reflects Bengaluru losing shared spaces where cinema shaped memories, directions, and community life, leaving behind names that linger long after screens go dark

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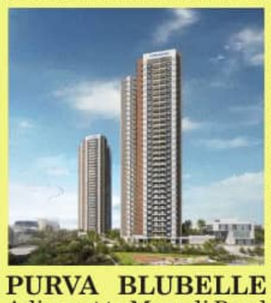

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These barricades don't belong here

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Station, is found near Town Hall. The distance between the Town Hall and HAL Traffic Police Station is 11 km. Another interesting find is a barricade belonging to Kadugodi Police Station Whitefield. The distance between Kadugodi and the Town Hall is 22 km.

"I am amused to see many barricades dumped here. It is not clear who brought those barricades belonging to far away police stations," said Pratap Reddy, a pedestrian.

Such barricades are not just dumped at Town Hall or Ravindra Kalakshetra. One can find a barricade belonging to Basavanagudi Police Station on Raj Bhavan Road near the General Post Office.

Some pedestrians BM spoke to said that these barricades serve no purpose at Town Hall as the venue for staging protests has been shifted to Freedom Park. "The purpose of donating barricades will be served if the police department shifts these barricades to Freedom Park or the respective police stations. As of now, these barricades are dumped here and neither do the

donors not get publicity nor are the barricades of any use," said Nanje Gowda, a pedestrian.

Demanding the police department to keep the place tidy, Suresh N, a pedestrian, said that the public are not allowed to stage a protest in front of the Town Hall. "What is the use of dumping barricades here? The authorities concerned must use these barricades appropriately at the right locations," he said.

Inheritance of loss: How unaware heirs can lose licences

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in southeast, 87 in northeast and 69 in Whitefield. Senior police officers explained the cancellations are usually carried out after a verification process, including background checks, criminal antecedents, and assessment of the necessity for possessing firearms.

"Many licence holders were found to have failed to renew their permits on time, did not comply with mandatory conditions, or were no longer eligible to possess weapons. Since firearms are purchased with a purpose, heirs often remain unaware of licence renewal dates or the legal requirements such as applying for transferee documents etc. When a weapon remains in someone else's physical custody, this lack of awareness frequently leads to violating the rules and hence becomes illegal and a reason for licence to be canceled," an official said.

Recently, the Karnataka High Court observed that when an application under Rule 25 of the Arms Rules, 2016, is filed during the lifetime of a licensee who is above 70 years of age or has possessed a firearm licence for over 25 years, the licensee may nominate any legal heir for the transfer of the licence. In such instances, the heir is not required to demonstrate any threat to life. The ruling was made by Justice Suraj Govindaraj while allowing a petition filed by Michael Mahesh Chris Saldanha from Mangaluru.

When a licensee passes away, the legal heir is required to immediately deposit the firearm either at the local police station. Thereafter, the heir may choose to have the licence cancelled or apply for a fresh licence and seek transfer of the weapon. "However, in some cases, the licence is cancelled while the transfer application is under process due to a negative report in background verification of the legal heir," said Kuldeep Kumar Jain, Joint Commissioner of Police (Administration).

He added that other reasons for licence cancellation include non-renewal and failure to purchase a weapon. Once issued, an arms licence is valid for five years. "The licence must be renewed before the expiry period. If the licence is not renewed on time, the weapon automatically becomes illegal," he explained. Police advise licensees to apply for renewal at least 60 days in advance to avoid any lapse.

Every month, nearly 100 applications are received, but most are rejected. Even those granted permission must purchase the weapon within one year. This period can be extended by the licensing authority for an additional year upon request. Failure to renew the licence within five years attracts a penalty.

Honour killing: Minister visits affected family, assures security

Karnataka Labour Minister Santosh S Lad on Saturday visited the family members of Vivekanand Doddamani, whose pregnant wife was allegedly killed by her father in a suspected case of honour killing in Hubballi.

The minister assured security to the family members of Doddamani, who were allegedly assaulted by his wife's father and were undergoing treatment.

He assured the family of security, assistance and compensation from the government. The minister stated that necessary action would be taken in accordance with the law.

Minister Lad obtained information from doctors about the condition of the injured and the treatment being provided, and instructed officials to ensure the best possible medical care.

The minister also visited Inanveerapur village, where the incident took place, and gathered information about the case.

MLA N. Konareddy, Police Commissioner of Hubballi-Dharwad, N. Shashikumar, Zilla Panchayat CEO Bhuvanesh Patil, and District Superintendent of Police Gunjan Arya were present on the occasion. **IANS**

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I, Suneetha Talari, W/o. Rajesh Medepalli, R/a. # 246/10, E-1, Sri Manju Nivas, BTM Layout, 1st Stage, B'lore-560068, have changed my name from Medepalli Suneetha to Suneetha Talari vide affidavit dtd: 15.11.2025 for all official purpose, hereafter I shall known as Suneetha Talari.

I Balvinder Khanna s/o Amrik Singh Khanna R/o No-19 3rd Floor Flat No-6 Bhagyalakshmi Avenue, 3rd Cross Rukmaiah Layout, Hulimavu, Bengaluru-560076 have changed my name to Balvinder A Khanna for all Purposes.

I, Bharathi K C W/o B K Venugopala R/o No 16/3, 3rd Floor,7th Main,16th Cross,Ram-aswamy Layout, Lakkasandra, Bangalore 560030 have changed my name to K C Bharathi Venugopal for all purposes

I, Ruksana Begum Syeeda W/o Ramjani R/o Plat No 108 Ward No 32 Journalist Colony, Belgal Road Ramanjineya Nagar, Ballari- 583102. Have Changed My Name to Ruksana Begum Syeeda for All Purposes,

I Manjula Irayya Kadadevar W/O Irayya Kadadevar, R/O T2-701, 7th floor, Purva Skydale Apartment, Silver County Road, Opposite Haralur Lake, Lakedew Residency, Phase 3rd Kudlu, Bengaluru -560068 have changed my name to Manjula Kadadevar

I, DEEPIKA DATTA PATIL, residing at Silver Oak Gardens Apt, Flat No. FF-003, B-Block, Doddakallasandra, Bengaluru-560062 have changed my name from DEEPIKA DATTORAO PATIL to DEEPIKA DATTA PATIL vide affidavit sworn before Notary G.R. Rajanna, Bengaluru, Dtd. 22-12-2025.

I, RENUKA TUMIN KATTE JAGADEESH R/at Flat 007, 'A' Block, Padmalaya residency, 33/34, 2nd main,6th cross, Vittal Nagar, Kumarswamy layout, Bangalore -560078 have changed my name to RENUKA UDAPUDI vide affidavit dated: 27/12/2025 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore

I, Sowmya Rattehalli Rajashekarappa W/o Shankargouda Veeranagouda Patil R/o 101, Panchmukhi Paradise Apts.,A Block, ,RR Nagar, B'luru 560098 have changed my name to Soumya Shankargowda Patil.

I, Shilpa Nagaraja R/181, 3rd Cross, Ct Bed, Thyagaraja nagar, Bengaluru - 560070 Have Changed My Name From Shilpa R J to Shilpa Nagaraja for All Purposes.

I, Basappa S/o Muniswami R/o #59 /12th cross 5th main road Wilson Garden Bengaluru-560027 have changed my name to Basavaraju M for all purposes.

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GET NOTICED

Illegal cargo turns private bus travel into rolling death traps

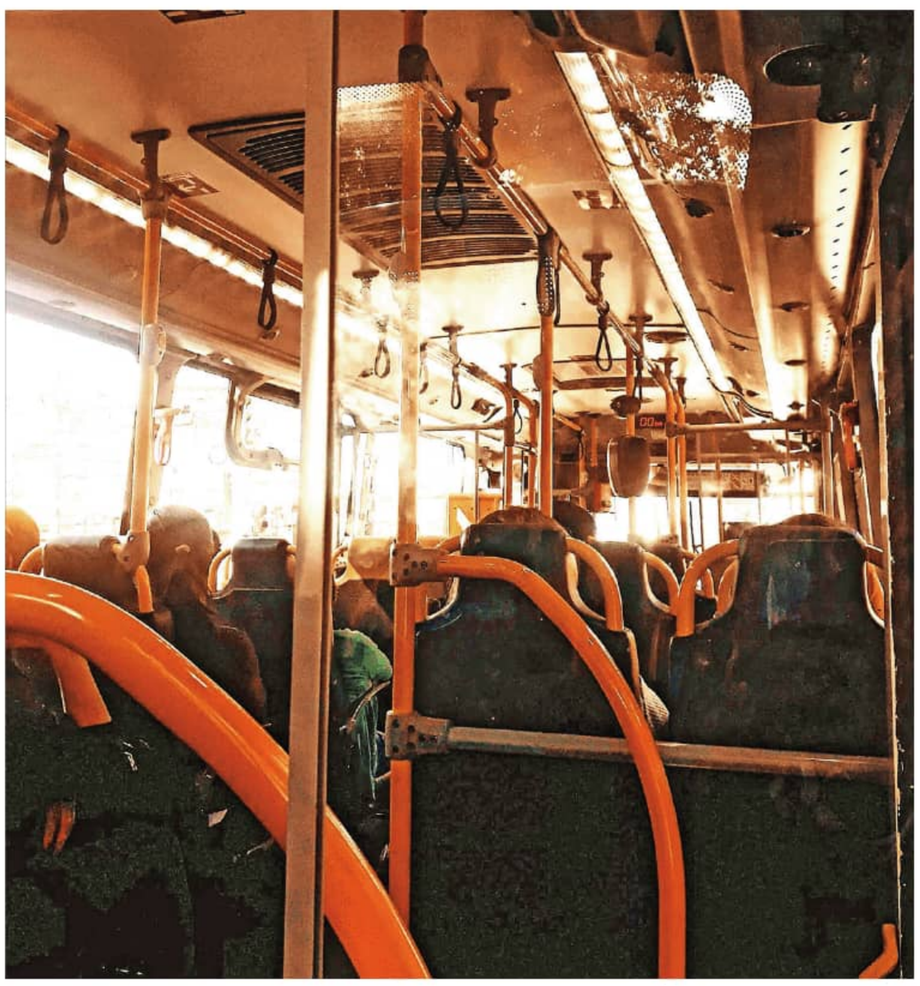
Repeated fires and fatal crashes expose how overloaded private buses carrying hazardous goods are endangering passengers across Karnataka and neighbouring states

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Passenger safety on private buses has emerged as a serious concern, with repeated fire and accident incidents exposing how illegally transported cargo to and from Bengaluru is turning routine travel into a potential death trap. Private buses ferrying passengers across Karnataka and neighbouring states are often overloaded with goods, parcels and even prohibited items, flouting safety norms and putting lives at risk. Recent incidents in Hyderabad and Chitradurga have once again highlighted the dangers of this unchecked practice.

In one such case on April 26, 2025, a private bus travelling on the Bengaluru–Mangaluru National Highway caught fire. Though passengers narrowly escaped, the incident triggered fresh alarm among transport authorities. Earlier, on October 14, 2025, a private bus travelling from Jaisalmer to Jodhpur went up in flames following a suspected short circuit, killing more than 20 passengers. Just days later, on October 24, another bus travelling from Hyderabad to Bengaluru caught fire, claiming 20 lives. Sources indicated that prohibited materials being transported on the bus led to an explosion. Most recently, in the early hours of December 25, a private bus near Hiriyur in Chitradurga district collided with a container, burst into flames and claimed five lives, leaving several others injured.

From rooftop parcels to inflammable cargo, private buses increasingly flout safety rules. Weak enforcement and profit motives are putting lives at risk, demanding urgent coordinated action



Overloaded luggage compartments and rooftop cargo on long-distance routes raise fire risks, especially when inflammable materials are transported without safety checks.

Officials say many private buses are being misused as unofficial cargo carriers, often transporting far more luggage than permitted. While passengers are allowed to carry personal belongings up to a limited weight, several buses are found carrying excessive goods in undercarriage luggage compartments and even on rooftops. In some cases, luggage stacked on the roof rises two to three feet high, particularly on ghat roads leading to coastal districts, significantly increasing the risk during travel.

This practice is common on routes connecting Bengaluru with Mumbai, North Karnataka and coastal districts such as Udupi and Mangaluru. Buses reportedly stop at multiple locations to load parcels, at times carrying more goods than passengers. Dangerous items such as batteries, electronic equipment and other inflammable materials are frequently transported, raising the risk of fire or explosion even in minor accidents.

Transport officials admit that carrying hazardous goods along with passengers is illegal, yet complaints continue from across the state. Some bus operators are suspected to have tie-ups with parcel companies, prioritising profits over passenger safety. A senior KSRTC official warned that even a small mishap involving such materials could trigger massive explosions, endangering everyone on board.

KSRTC, meanwhile, said it strictly adheres to Supreme Court guidelines, allowing only passenger-related luggage and banning rooftop cargo entirely. Officials stressed that only coordinated enforcement involving transport authorities, police and commercial tax officials, coupled with strict penalties, can curb violations and prevent further loss of life.

Repeated fires and accidents expose how illegal cargo on private buses endangers passengers, with lax enforcement allowing hazardous goods to turn routine travel across Karnataka into deadly journeys.

Centre-state tiff over Foxconn

A political tussle has broken out between the Centre and the Karnataka government over credit for Taiwanese manufacturing giant Foxconn setting up a new unit in Bengaluru. The row escalated after Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi credited the state government for the investment, prompting Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to term it a success of the Centre's Make in India push.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah questioned how Karnataka attracted Foxconn if the scheme benefited only BJP-ruled states. Industries Minister MB Patil said investments depend on long-built ecosystems, talent and infrastructure. IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge urged the Centre to understand how Apple's India journey began.

The BJP countered with a video citing groundwork laid under former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, including land near the Bengaluru airport for a project expected to generate one lakh jobs. **BMB**

Two Bengalureans shine at FSIA finale

Two Bengalureans won laurels at the Forever Star India Awards (FSIA) during its national finale held on December 21 at Zee Studios in Jaipur. Neeharika Bethanapalli was crowned FSIA Miss India 2025, while Sandhya Linga earned the title of FSIA Miss Karnataka 2025. The FSIA platform recognises women who inspire impact beyond the crown. **BMB**

Pothole-ridden Jigani–Bommasandra Road turns daily commute into ordeal

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Thousands of commuters, especially two-wheeler riders, have been facing a lot of problems commuting on the 8-km road between Jigani APC Circle and Bommasandra Road. This is the vital stretch to reach Jigani Industrial Area for thousands of employees working at various industrial units.

Commuters said the stretch is riddled with potholes and deep craters, making travel extremely difficult, particularly during the rainy season. They alleged that the authorities concerned have failed to take concrete measures to asphalt the road despite repeated reminders and complaints over the past several months.

"The road is severely damaged with potholes, uneven surfaces and waterlogging, causing frequent traffic congestion and vehicle damage, and posing serious safety risks to two-wheeler riders, pedestrians and school buses. Despite Jigani being an important industrial and employment hub, the road infrastructure here is in a highly neglected state, which is truly disappointing," said Mani Ranjan, a resident. He urged authorities to inspect the stretch immediately and take up urgent repair and resurfacing works, stating that improved road conditions would significantly ease daily commuting and enhance safety.

Echoing similar concerns, Dr Srikanth BS, who uses the road daily, said the situation has worsened over the past six months. "The authorities had filled some potholes and craters temporarily, but that has not solved the problem. We want a permanent solution to this issue," he said, adding that the poor road condition has become a routine hazard for commuters.

A stretch of the road between Jigani APC Circle and Bommasandra Road

Meanwhile, a Public Works Department (PWD) assistant engineer said that a proposal for asphalting and developing the road has already been approved by higher authorities. However, he pointed out that the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board (KUWSDB) is expected to dig up a portion of the road to lay underground drainage pipes, as directed by the National Green Tribunal. "We are waiting for KUWSDB engineers to complete the work. Once that is done, we will immediately take up the development of the road," he said.

4,000 officials caught misusing BPL cards

More than 4,000 government employees across Karnataka have been found to have illegally obtained Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards, violating service rules and triggering public outrage over the lack of stringent action. Official data shows that 4,036 government staff possessed BPL cards, of which 3,360 have since been converted to Above Poverty Line (APL) cards. However, citizens argue that mere conversion and collection of penalties fall far short of accountability, especially when welfare schemes meant for the poorest are misused by salaried employees.

Records accessed through the Human Resource Management System (HRMS) reveal that employees held 157 Antyodaya (AAY) cards and 1,966 priority household BPL cards across districts. **BMB**

K'taka seems to be in troubled waters

Central authority once again raises issues of more than permissible limits of flouride, nitrate, uranium in groundwater across state, including Bengaluru

There are significant groundwater quality issues in various parts of Karnataka, including Bengaluru, the Central Groundwater Board has highlighted yet again.

In a report submitted to the National Green Tribunal, the Board has underlined that while nearly 18% of the groundwater samples tested in Karnataka had higher than permissible levels of fluoride content, more than 48% of the samples are polluted with nitrate, and a little over 8% of the groundwater samples had higher uranium content.

Districts with anomalous values of fluoride and nitrate also include rural Bengaluru. The Board submitted the report following the tribunal taking a suo motu cognizance of news reports highlighting high levels of nitrate in groundwater.

As per CGWB, fluoride concentrations exceeding the permissible limit are a major concern in Karnataka. Although the monsoon season led to some improvement in fluoride levels, the overall contamination levels remain alarmingly high.

IN FOCUS
Resource crunch

Excessive abstraction of groundwater, especially in regions that are already overexploited, may raise its fluoride level

As per CGWB, fluoride concentrations exceeding the permissible limit are a major concern in Karnataka. Although the monsoon season led to some improvement in fluoride levels, the overall contamination levels remain alarmingly high

Excessive abstraction of groundwater, especially in regions that are already facing overexploitation, may raise fluoride concentration in the groundwater.

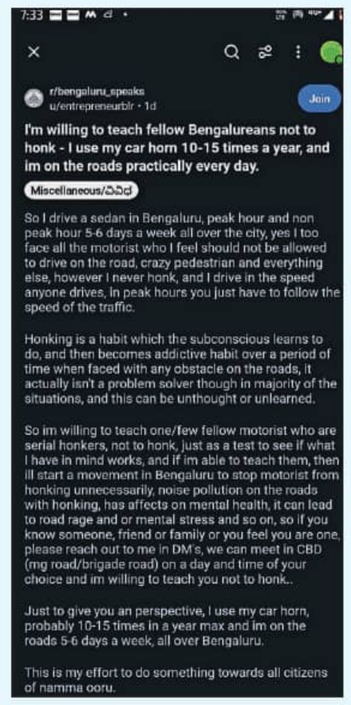
Karnataka's pre-monsoon fluoride contamination was relatively moderate (31 samples), and post-monsoon, 22 samples showed improvement, with 11 falling below the permissible limit. This suggests that monsoon recharge had a favourable impact on reducing fluoride concentrations.

Another notable concern in the groundwater quality is the elevated levels of uranium. Groundwater samples with uranium concentrations greater than 30 ppb were clustered in areas identified as over-exploited, critical, and semi-critical groundwater stress zones. This overlap points to the exacerbating effect of overexploitation and deepening water levels on uranium contamination. The enhanced uranium concentration in groundwater may be due to geogenic inputs. The higher concentration of uranium is usually found in hard rock due to the partial melting and fractional crystallisation of magma, which enables uranium to be concentrated in silicate rocks.

Karnataka is also severely affected by high EC value in groundwater, with more than 10 % of water samples in a significant number of districts exceeding the permissible limit of 3000 µS/cm.

–BMB

SOCIALTATTLE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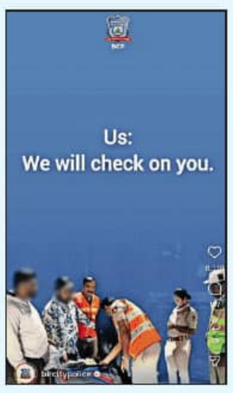
Join
I'm willing to teach fellow Bengalureans not to honk - I use my car horn 10-15 times a year, and im on the roads practically every day.
Miscellaneous/ಮಿಮಿ
So I drive a sedan in Bengaluru, peak hour and non peak hour 5-6 days a week all over the city, yes I too face all the motorist who I feel should not be allowed to drive on the road, crazy pedestrian and everything else, however I never honk, and I drive in the speed anyone drives, in peak hours you just have to follow the speed of the traffic.
Honking is a habit which the subconscious learns to do, and then becomes addictive habit over a period of time when faced with any obstacle on the roads, it actually isn't a problem solver though in majority of the situations, and this can be unthought or unlearned.
So im willing to teach one/few fellow motorist who are serial honkers, not to honk, just as a test to see if what I have in mind works, and if im able to teach them, then ill start a movement in Bengaluru to stop motorist from honking unnecessarily, noise pollution on the roads with honking, has affects on mental health, it can lead to road rage and or mental stress and so on, so if you know someone, friend or family or you feel you are one, please reach out to me in DM's, we can meet in CBD (mg road/brigade road) on a day and time of your choice and im willing to teach you not to honk..
Just to give you an perspective, I use my car horn, probably 10-15 times in a year max and im on the roads 5-6 days a week, all over Bengaluru.
This is my effort to do something towards all citizens of namma ooru.

THAT WENT VIRAL

A Bengaluru man wants to teach others on how to stop honking, and says on Reddit, "I use my car horn 10–15 times a year". Take this up as a challenge, y'all!

A Bengaluru Police awareness video set to the popular vibes to "People" song is resonating strongly with the public. Check it out here: https://www.instagram.com/reel/DSxC1LrFlQ1/?igsh=amVyZjc2N200cmln



venugopal @ksvenu247 · 2d
High Court order ignored, illegal construction continues - Bangalor
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FIR NEED TO be LODGED ON GOVT
OFFICIALS RESPONSIBILE.
bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com

BANGALORE MIRROR MENTIONED

A citizens tweets BM story about illegal construction continuing despite court orders.

INBRIEF

Tiger attack: Watcher killed

An Anti-Poaching Camp (APC) watcher has been killed in a tiger attack in Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said on Saturday.

"The deceased has been identified as Sannahaida (56), an APC watcher, who lost his life while on duty following the tiger attack near Muralahalli camp in Bandipur," the minister said in a statement.

Khandre expressed grief over the death of the APC watcher and described the incident as tragic and deeply distressing.

"In this moment of grief, the department and the government stand firmly with the family of Sannahaida," Khandre said.

The minister noted that while no compensation can ever replace a lost life, the government would extend all possible support to the family.

"Every life is precious. Compensation cannot bring back the life lost, but as a measure of support, compensation will be provided to the deceased's family as per rules," he said. –PTI

'Housing will be given to people evicted'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said that suitable housing arrangements would be provided to people who were evicted from makeshift shelters at a waste dumping site in the Kogilu Badavane area near Yelahanka in Bengaluru. In a post on X, the Chief Minister said that the land was unfit for human habitation and had been encroached upon.

Siddaramaiah said, "Many had encroached upon and built makeshift shelters at the waste dumping site in the Kogilu Badavane area near Yelahanka in Bengaluru, a location unfit for human habitation. Despite issuing notices multiple times to the families there to relocate elsewhere, they did not respond. In this context, they have inevitably been evicted from that site."

"I have spoken with the Commissioner of the GBA and instructed them to make arrangements for temporary shelter, food, and other necessities for all of them..." he added. –ANI

Need stricter norms for night buses

The Karnataka government has decided to write to the Centre seeking stricter guidelines on night-time movement of vehicles, following the bus tragedy that killed seven near Hiriyur in Chitradurga district.

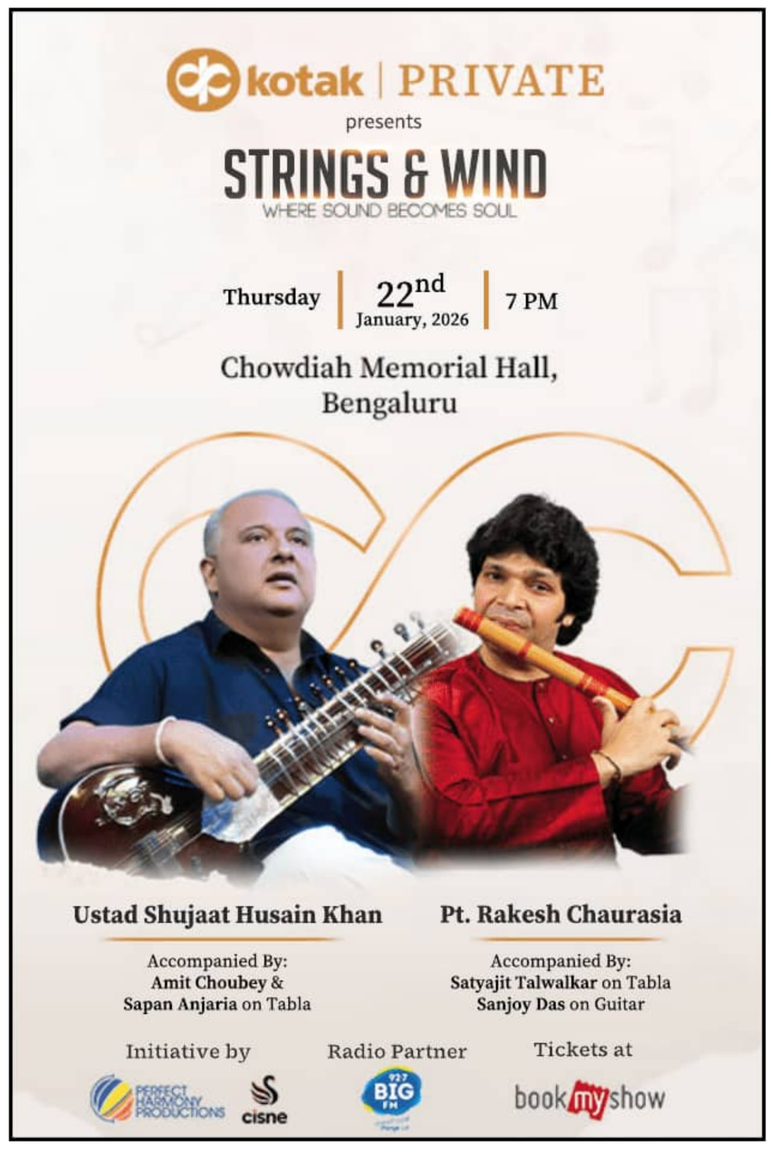
State Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy made the statement in this regard on Saturday in Bengaluru.

Minister Reddy said he will write to the Central government seeking stricter guidelines on the night-time movement of vehicles to prevent accidents caused by driver fatigue. Reddy said that there has been a noticeable increase in road accidents at night in recent times.

He stressed that drivers undertaking night travel should get adequate rest beforehand and take breaks during long journeys.

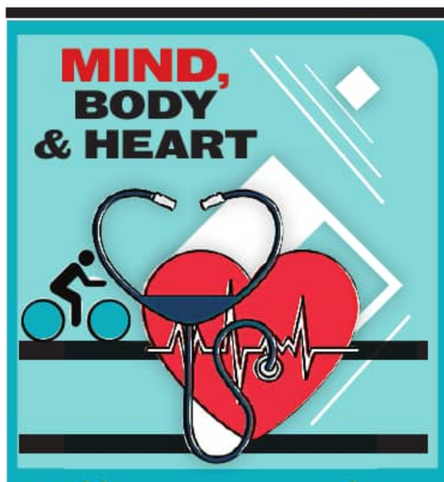
To address the problem, the Transport Minister said he would urge the Centre to frame new guidelines mandating compulsory rest for drivers on National Highways between midnight and 4 am.

Under the proposed guidelines, drivers of trucks, lorries and buses would be required to halt their vehicles and take rest for at least four hours during this time before resuming their journey, he said. –IANS



HEALTH TIP: Oil pulling involves swishing a teaspoon of virgin coconut oil in your mouth for five to 10 minutes post-brushing, then spitting it out

Oil pulling reduces oral bacteria, supports gum health, and is linked to better inflammation control



All you need to know about...

Breast cancer screening

Assess risk
An individualised approach to breast cancer screening that assesses patients' risk, rather than annual mammograms, can lower the chance of more advanced cancers, while still safely matching people to the amount of screening they need, according to a study.

Specific factors
The findings, by the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), based on a study of 46,000 US women, support shifting the approach to screening from one that is based on age alone to one that starts with comprehensive risk assessment to determine each woman's optimal screening schedule.
"The findings should transform clinical guidelines for breast cancer screening and alter clinical practice," said Laura J. Esserman, director of the UCSF Breast Care Center.

What to screen
"The personalised approach begins with risk assessment, incorporating genetic, biological, and lifestyle factors, which can then guide effective prevention strategies," Esserman added.

Efficient approach
Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women, accounting for an estimated 2.3 million cases and 670,000 deaths globally.
For decades, screening assumed all women have the same risk, and guidelines were based largely on age, despite strong evidence that individual risk varies widely.
The new study, published in JAMA, compared the standard annual mammogram with an approach based on individual risk.
The results showed that the risk-based screening approach did not increase the frequency of higher-stage cancers.
Importantly, the study found that 30% of the women who tested positive for a genetic variant that increased their risk of breast cancer did not report a family history of breast cancer. **–IANS**

Taste the festive spirit

These mouth-watering recipes will ensure you throw the best parties

CHICKEN CASSEROLE WITH WHITE WINE & HERBS

INGREDIENTS
- Chicken Legs – 300gms
- Olive oil – 30 ml
- Butter – 30 gms
- Onion (sliced) – 60 gms
- Garlic (chopped) – 10 gms
- Carrots (diced) – 80 gms
- Celery– 30 gms
- White wine – 80 ml
- Chicken stock – 150 ml
- Fresh thyme – 5 gm
- Fresh rosemary – 3 gm
- Bay leaf – 1 no.
- Salt – as per taste
- Black pepper – Crushed
- Cream) – 50 gms

METHOD
- Season chicken with salt and pepper.
- Heat olive oil and butter in casserole dish. Brown chicken on all sides, then put aside.
- In the same dish, sauté onion, garlic, carrots, and celery until softened.
- Deglaze with white wine, simmer for 2–3 minutes to reduce slightly.
- Add chicken stock, thyme, rosemary, and bay leaf. Return chicken to the dish.
- Cover and simmer gently for 20-25 minutes until chicken is tender and cooked through.
- Stir in the cream and Serve hot with mashed potatoes.
- Garnish with fresh herbs.

CHOCOLATE PECAN PIE

INGREDIENTS
Chocolate Sweet Pastry
- Butter – 500 g
- Flour – 700 g
- Cocoa powder – 50 g
- Icing sugar – 250 g
- Eggs – 3 no's

Pecan Pie Mixture
- Eggs – 150 g
- Honey – 255 g
- Melted butter – 30 g
- Vanilla essence – 5 g
- Dark chocolate, chopped – 306 g
- Pecan nuts, chopped – 187 g
- Castor sugar – 150 g

METHOD
To Prepare the Pastry
- Cream the butter and icing sugar until light.
- Add the eggs one at a time and mix gently.
- Sift together the flour and cocoa powder.
- Add the dry ingredients to the butter mixture and combine to form smooth dough.
- Wrap and keep the dough with cling film and refrigerate for half an hour.
- Roll out the pastry and line a pie tin. Prick the base with a fork.
- Light bake at 160°C for 10–12 minutes. Allow it to cool.

To Prepare the Pie Filling
- In a bowl, whisk the eggs, castor sugar, and honey until combined.
- Add the melted butter and vanilla essence, mix well.
- Fold in the chopped dark chocolate and pecan nuts.

To Assemble
- Pour the prepared filling into the baked pastry shell.
- Bake at 170°C for 20 minutes or until the filling is set and glossy.
- Allow to cool completely before slicing.
- Garnish with Toasted Pecan Nut

CINNAMON SCENTED PUMPKIN AND FETA SAVOURY TART

INGREDIENTS
The Puff pastry sheet
- All-purpose flour – 150 g
- Unsalted butter (cold) – 100gms
- Salt – 2g
- Cold water – 120gms

For The Pumpkin and Feta Filling
- Pumpkin (peeled & diced) – 200 gms
- Cinnamon Stick – 10 gms
- Feta cheese – 40 gms
- Olive oil – 15 ml
- Onion (sliced) – 60 gms
- Garlic (chopped) – 10gms
- Fresh thyme – 5gms
- Salt – 5gms
- Black pepper – To taste

Method For Puff Pastry
- In a bowl, mix flour and salt.
- Add cold butter and lightly rub into flour, leaving some chunks visible.
- Add cold water slowly and bring together into a rough dough. Do not overwork.
- After 30 minutes in the refrigerator, wrap in clingfilm.
- Roll out into a rectangle, fold like a letter then chill for 20 minutes.
- Repeat rolling and folding 4 times, chilling between each turn.
- After final chill, your pastry is ready to use.

Method and Final Plating
- Toss pumpkin with olive oil, salt, pepper, Cinnamon and thyme. Roast for 20 minutes until tender.
- In a pan, sauté onion and garlic until soft and golden.
- Roll out puff pastry on a baking tray.
- Add sautéed onion and garlic over pastry and Arrange roasted pumpkin on top and crumble feta cheese evenly.
- Bake for 20–25 minutes until the pastry is golden and crisp.
- Cool slightly, slice and serve warm. Dust with Cinnamon Powder.

Recipes by Gaurav Bansal, Head Chef, ibis Styles Mysuru

Abrupt walk out
Sent legal notice to Akshaye Khanna as he "walked out" of 'Drishyam 3' after "taking signing amount": Producer Mangat Pathak

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Do the math

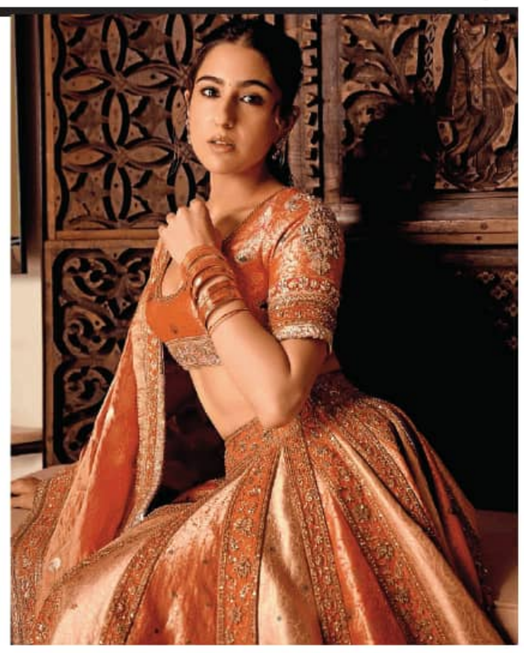
Imran Khan talks about staggering pay gaps in film industry

In a candid new interview, Imran Khan has revealed the staggering economics of the film industry. Speaking on the Unfiltered by Samdish podcast, Imran Khan shared the experience of becoming an overnight sensation with the cult hit, 'Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na'. He revealed that he was paid just Rs. 5 lakh for the Sanjay Dutt, Minisha Lamba starrer 'Kidnap', where the makers were initially hesitant to even cast him. However, it all changed following the massive success of 'Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na'. He went on to reveal how the highest paycheck that he had received for a film was Rs. 12 crore, without divulging its name.

Khan said, "When my first film was released and became a hit, I went from being paid almost nothing to being paid multiple crores. At 25, suddenly you're being paid Rs 7-10 crore. By the time Jaane Tu released, I had already done three films. I suddenly thought to myself, 'Did my acting grow so much from my previous film?'"

In the same interview, Imran Khan went on to discuss the budgets of films. He noted how the industry's A-listers are now commanding astronomical figures that often put the rest of the production cost to shame. Khan said, "If you really consider the scale at which a leading actor earns in comparison to all other actors and all the other non-actors on set with all the recent films, there will come a moment where they will all sit and say 'Hang on!'"

Imran Khan added, "They will then analyse the whole thing, and somewhere in the mathematics and algebra, they will say, 'This is not making sense.' It doesn't make sense to pay one person so much." As for A-list actors' fees today, Imran said, "If you're an A-lister in theatrical films today, you're not earning less than Rs 30 crore per film. Anyone my age—Ranbir Kapoor, Ranveer Singh, Shahid Kapoor—I would be surprised if any of them are earning less than that." **–ETimes**



About the strength of a woman

Sara Ali Khan recently reflected on what strength means to her, crediting her upbringing for shaping her worldview. Speaking on aunt Soha Ali Khan's podcast, the actress said, "For me, a strong woman is someone who doesn't fear having a voice." Emphasising inner empowerment, she added, "Today, society has evolved and women have become more free, but I think it starts from within. Your ability to emancipate yourself, to stand for what you believe in, and to stand up for yourself—that's strength."

Acknowledging her own privilege, Sara admitted she has always been encouraged to speak her mind. "I've always had a voice. I've never had to shut myself down. Even while growing up at home, questions and opinions were always welcome," she said, while recognising that this freedom is not universal. "Not everyone has that, and kudos to those who live in a world that may not always support them."

Sara revealed being raised by her mother, Amrita Singh, after her parents separated in 2004, influenced her understanding of gender roles. "You have to derive your own strength in a world where you're aware that inequality exists," she said, adding, "I grew up with a single mother, so the way I look at women is completely different." About notions of men as providers and women as nurturers, Sara said her childhood reality was different. "My mom was doing everything. That bifurcation doesn't exist in my memory at all," she shared, before adding, "My mom doesn't do any job that's 'ideally' associated with women—she's a bad cook." **–ETimes**

Delete it! Morphed images 'disturbing'

The Bombay High Court has termed the AI (artificial intelligence)- generated and morphed photos of actor Shilpa Shetty as "extremely disturbing and shocking" and directed several social media platforms to forthwith delete and remove all such links and websites.

The actor moved the HC seeking protection of her personality rights and, in her suit, alleged that AI tools were used to clone her voice and mannerisms to create morphed images, books and other merchandise without her authorisation. The actor sought an injunction to all the websites to take down the content and to also restrain them from using her name, voice or image without permission.

A vacation bench noted in its order that the material uploaded on the websites was "prima facie extremely disturbing" and "no personality, much less a person and or a woman can be portrayed in a fashion which affects her fundamental right to privacy and that too, without her knowledge and or consent" PTI reported. The court said that Shetty has tendered photos from social media platforms which depict her inappropriately. "These pictures prima facie appear shocking," Justice Sethna said. "She is a well-known film personality and also active on various social media platforms. Portrayal of such images would tarnish her image and reputation and cannot be countenanced," the court added. **–ETimes**

Sadie says 'Spider-Man' secrets hard to keep

Actress Sadie Sink has revealed that keeping secrets about her upcoming Marvel film 'Spider-Man: Brand New Day' has been even more challenging than guarding spoilers from Stranger Things. The actor, who recently joined the cast of the Spider-Man franchise, said being part of the film is "crazy" and she "can't wait to talk about it more," according to People.

Speaking to The Hollywood Reporter, Sink shared that she learned about her casting while wrapping up the fifth and final season of 'Stranger Things'. "Oh, it was crazy," Sink said. "Spider-Man has always been my favorite. I love Spider-Man. I love Tom's Spider-Man, especially. To be a fan of something and then join it is a familiar feeling for me, because I was a fan of Stranger Things before I joined the show, but I was super excited about what they had planned."

The actress also spoke about reuniting with director Destin Daniel Cretton. "I also worked with the director, Destin Daniel Cretton, in one of the first movies I ever did when I was 14, so it's kind of a full-circle moment," she said, adding that she had an "amazing time" working on the film, as per the outlet.

While details about her character remain under wraps, Sink admitted she is eager to talk more about it. " There's so much I want to share. That's why I feel like keeping Stranger Things secrets are kind of easy because I have so many Spider-Man secrets I'm sitting on that feel even more secretive," she said. **–IANS**

Kate Winslet was a curious teen

Hollywood actress Kate Winslet has shed light on some of her "first intimate experiences". Talking about them, she has said that some of these experiences were same-sex.

The actress revealed she was "curious" in her late teenage years and she could relate to her character in the 1994 movie 'Heavenly Creatures' about the all-consuming and obsessive relationship between two teenage girls, reports 'Female First UK'.

As per The Telegraph, she told the Team Deakins podcast, "I'll share something I've never shared before. Some of my first intimate experiences as a young teen were actually with girls. "I'd kissed a few girls, I'd kissed a few boys but I wasn't particularly evolved in either direction. "But at that stage in my life I certainly was curious, and I think there was something about the really intense connection that those two women have that I profoundly understood. I was so immediately sucked into the vortex of that world they were in that obviously became horrendously damaging to both of them".

She further mentioned, "I mean, they murdered someone because they truly believed that that person was preventing them from being together. And whilst of course I couldn't truly understand that part of it, I could understand how influenced a young person's mind can become by just one other person when you're so so vulnerable". As per 'Female First UK', Kate, who was 17 when she filmed the movie, revealed the film changed her.**–IANS**

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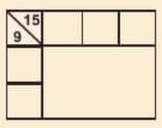
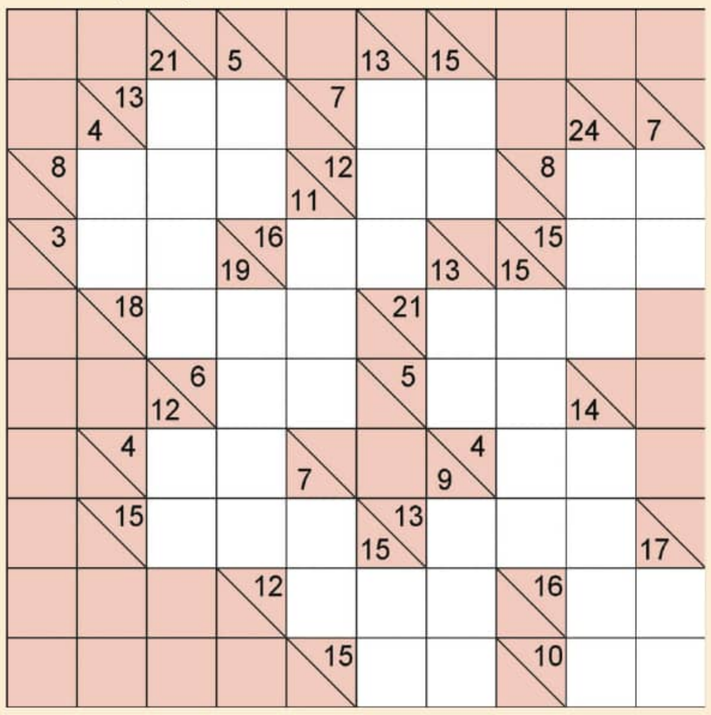
Kakuro

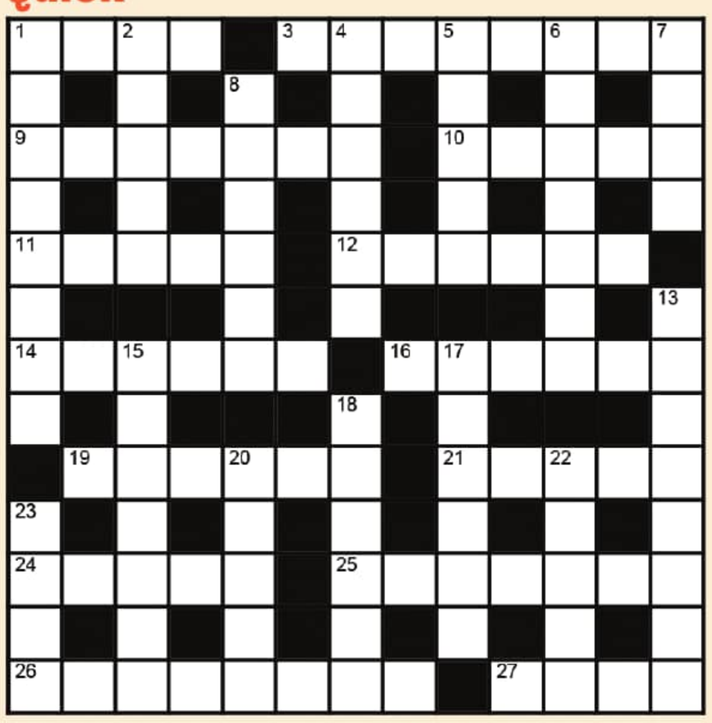
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Not working (4)
3 Metal glove (8)
9 Founder of Cubism (7)
10 Very recently (5)
11 Shelf; ridge of rocks (5)
12 Bird house (6)
14 Reliable (6)
16 Lose softness (6)
19 Attic (6)
21 Centre-circumference lines (5)
24 Romantic poet (5)
25 Clothing (7)
26 Giving as a grant or charity or loan (8)
27 Alkaline solutions (4)

DOWN

1 Rude (8)
2 Clear (5)
4 Unprincipled (6)
5 ___ Hills: Scenic spot around 60 kms from Bangalore (5)
6 Reduced (7)
7 Playthings (4)
8 Declare (6)
13 Accredits, authorises or empowers (8)
15 Yet to be broadcasted (7)
17 Unexpected (6)
18 Exert (6)
20 Extend a subscription (5)
22 Famous horse-race (5)
23 Competent (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS W

KL JGHLU RQNL JCI LULDQLT HPL DLSUT GJI JCI JKU WLTHICOHQJU.

Linemaro

If I had a rupee for every time I thought you were wonderful, I'd be a millionaire

Mindchow

Life is 10 per cent what happens to you and 90 per cent how you respond to it

Joke of the day

I'm proud of George, he's learned a lot about ranching since that first year when he tried to milk the horse; what's worse, it was a male horse -- Laura Bush, wife of George W Bush

Loop

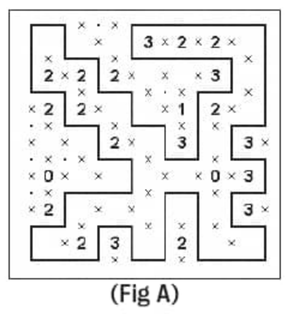
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

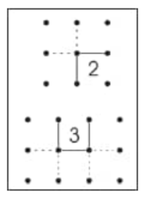
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

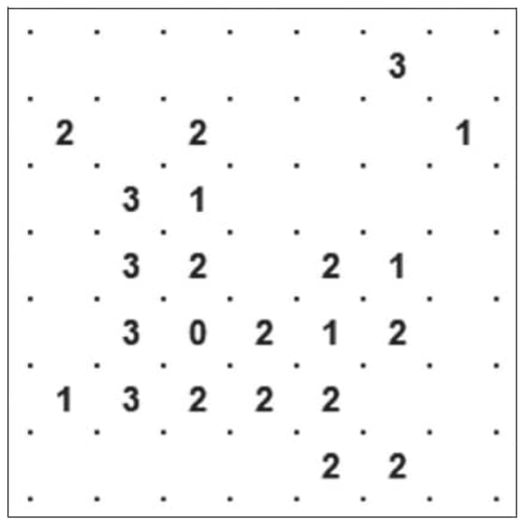
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



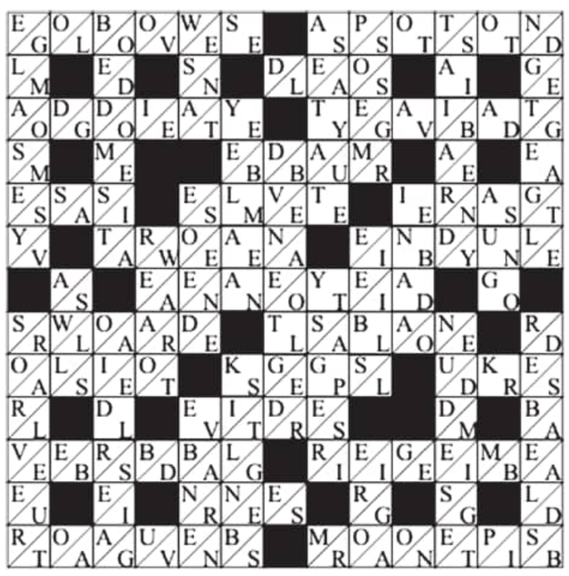
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9		K		

ACROSS

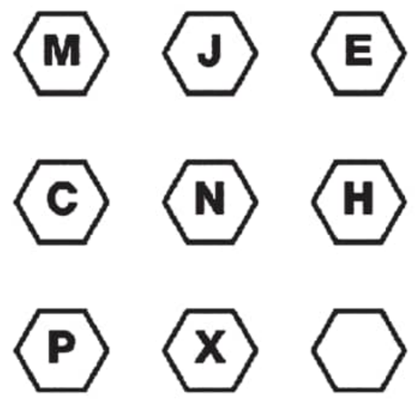
1 Tours; 6 Mr Mee; 7 Seen I; 8 A a get; 9 A knew

DOWN

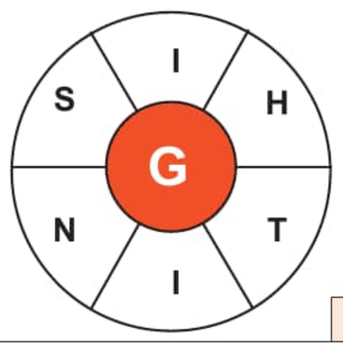
1 Wears; 2 O Mage; 3 UK Aim; 4 Teens; 5 Terne

Mensapuzzle

Logically which letter fills the blank hexagon?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

1	6	4	5					
	9			3				
		3	6		4	5		
6				2			3	
	5		4		6		8	
	2			8				4
		5	9		3	1		
				5			9	
					1	4	7	5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 5

2 5 7 9

Medium = 26

3 7 7 9

Hard = 16

2 3 4 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

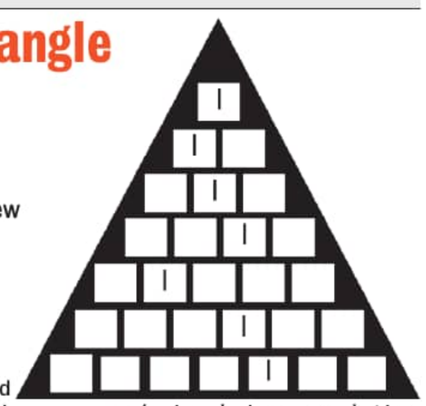
Differences: 1. Purse is different. 2. Tape is moved on stick. 3. Hat is smaller. 4. Man's finger is moved. 5. Tree branch is missing. 6. Woman's hair is longer.

Riddler

Below are five clues, each of which relates to the first line of a different Christmas carol or song. The clues only have the first letters of each of the words. Can you figure out what songs they are?

Alpha triangle

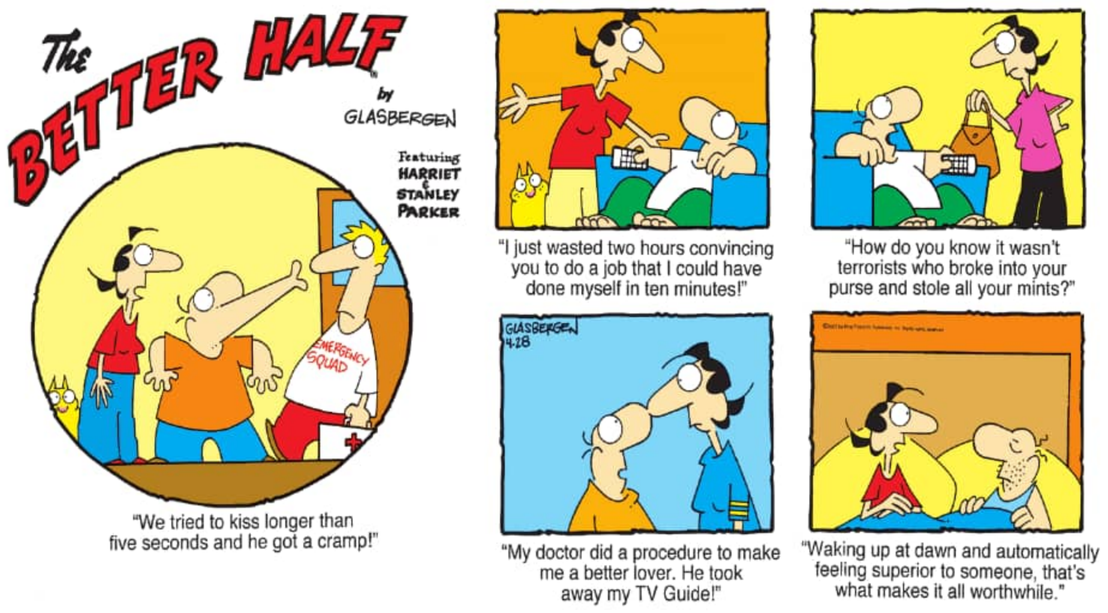
1 Egoistic letter
2 Not out
3 Strong drink
4 Obtain more
5 Immense person
6 North African stew
7 Defeating



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
EMERGENCY SQUAD
"We tried to kiss longer than five seconds and he got a cramp!"
"I just wasted two hours convincing you to do a job that I could have done myself in ten minutes!"
"How do you know it wasn't terrorists who broke into your purse and stole all your mints?"
GLASBERGEN 4-28
"My doctor did a procedure to make me a better lover. He took away my TV Guide!"
"Waking up at dawn and automatically feeling superior to someone, that's what makes it all worthwhile."

BABY BLUES
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
BATH TIME.
IT'S ALREADY BEEN HANDLED.
A WHILE BACK, A MAN CALLED MING THE MERCILESS ATTACKED THE EARTH.
DR. HANS ZARKOV ROCKETED TO MING'S PLANET TO FIGHT FOR EARTH'S SURVIVAL-- DRAGGING TWO STRANGERS WITH HIM.
ONE WAS DALE ARDEN.
THE OTHER WAS ME...
FLASH GORDON
THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION -- IT'S MESSING WITH REALITY -- THINGS KEEP SHIFTING--
THERE'S A PETTY TYRANT ON A POWER TRIP.
THERE'S DALE, NOT GIVING AN INCH.
THERE'S YOU WITH TWO HANDS...
...AND AIR IN YOUR LUNGS.
COME ON, FLASH! FOCUS!
DOESN'T MATTER WHAT CHANGES--
--DOESN'T MATTER IF IT TAKES ONE DAY OR NINETY YEARS--
--YOU FIGHT THE FIGHT.
AND THE NEXT ONE.
AND THE NEXT.
UNTIL YOU'VE SAVED EVERY ONE OF US.
NEXT: ONWARD

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Today is excellent for securing agreements or signing documents. Your reputation for reliability precedes you, making others eager to commit. Ensure all fine print is reviewed meticulously, as your own high standards apply to others, too. A conversation with a subordinate could reveal an untapped resource you hadn't previously recognised.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Exercise patience and avoid impulsive leaps today, careful planning prevents setbacks. Move deliberately, map your next steps, and resist rushing into unfamiliar ventures.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Intense conversations may arise, focus on resolving old issues rather than sparking new fights. Tie up loose ends for smoother productivity. Closure now yields better results than initiating fresh disputes.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Avoid blame in relationships; misunderstandings escalate quickly today. Resist judging based on one action and practise open communication. Compassion and clarity prevent long-term tension.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Daily routine feels chaotic as year-end pressure builds; avoid major new commitments or unknown clients. Stay steady and focus on reliable tasks, maintaining calm consistency amidst looming deadlines.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Maintain a low profile to avoid public embarrassment, don't create scenes or draw attention today. Handle sensitive matters quietly and discreetly; subtle correction prevents amplified scrutiny.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Domestic challenges may precede leaving home, temper tempers and enforce boundaries kindly. Protect personal space to prevent flare-ups. Calm assertiveness creates stability amid household tensions.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Words carry sharpness, speak with care to avoid offending others unintentionally. Avoid contentious topics and step back when provoked to prevent unnecessary conflict.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Avoid quick financial deals, today warns of missing information. Postpone major transactions until clarity returns. Careful review prevents costly oversights; patience protects resources and long-term financial interests effectively.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Complete unfinished projects rather than starting new ones today, focus on closure to avoid going in circles. Finishing old work creates momentum and prevents wasted effort on unripe ventures during this period.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Direction feels unclear, pause before concluding matters. Avoid rash judgments and think twice before speaking. Reflection and restraint help restore clarity; meaningful communication may resume once energies settle.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

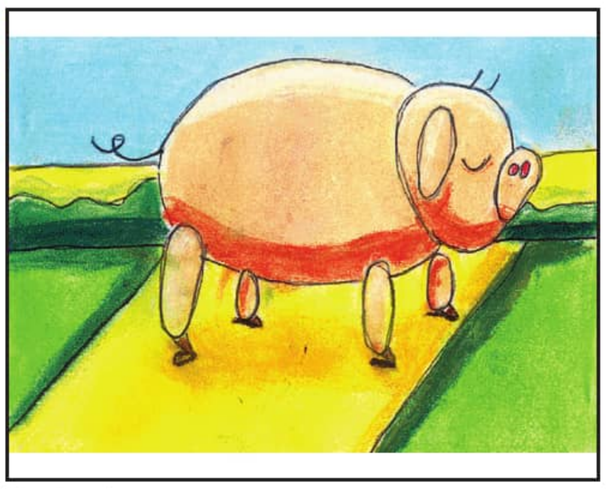
Popularity contests intensify, avoid aligning with sides in social disputes. Your choices may linger; resist drama and stay neutral to prevent future repercussions. Preserve reputation by sidestepping unnecessary involvement in conflict.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Progress may stall despite effort, obstacles and lack of support impede forward movement. Exercise patience and postpone major launches until conditions improve.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Mira, Bengaluru

Narayani, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER 1. A Christmas Song (Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...), 2. White Christmas (Im dreaming of a white Christmas...), 3. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, had a very shiny nose...), 4. Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer (Grandma got run over by a reindeer...) & 5. Blue Christmas (Ill have a blue Christmas without you...)

QUOTE UNCODE We often give our enemies the means for our own destruction.

W	A	K	E	N	
A	G	A	T	E	
S	E	I	N	E	
E	M	M	E	R	
R	O	U	S	T	

FAST FIVE

STRIKE OUT

G	L	O	V	E	S		S	P	O	T	O	N		
L	D	S		L	E	O		A		E				
O	D	D	I	T	Y		T	E	A	B	A	G		
S		E		E	D	A	M		A		A			
S	A	S		S	M	E	E		E	R	A	T		
Y		T	W	E	E	N		E	N	D	U	E		
A		A	N	N	O	Y	E	D		G				
S	W	O	R	D		T	A	L	O	N		R		
A	L	I	T		K	E	G	S		U	R	E		
L		L		V	I	D	E			D		B		
V	E	R	B	A	L		R	E	G	I	M	E		
E		I		N	N	E		R		S		L		
G	L	O	V	E	S		M	A	N	T	I	S		

QUICK

E	N	D	O	W	I	N	G		L	Y	E	S		
L		E		E		I		T		B		E		
B	Y	R	O	N		A	P	P	A	R	E	L		
A		I		E		R		U		E		T		
	G	A	R	R	E	T		R	A	D	I			
E		N				S		B				T		
T	R	U	S	T	Y		H	A	R	D	E	N		
I		R		L				E				E		
L	E	D	G	E		A	V	I	A	R	Y			
O		I		S		R		D		E		S		
P	I	C	A	S	S	O		N	E	W	L	Y		
M	U		A		M		A		O		L	E	T	
I	D	L	E		G	A	U	N	T	L	E	T		

MENSA PUZZLE M. Working in columns, the bottom letter equals the sum of the top and centre letters.

BULL'S EYE gist, INSIGHT, nigh, night, sight, sigh, sigh, sing, sting, sting, thing

SOLVE IN 1M $(4\sqrt{5}-4\sqrt{7}) / (3\sqrt{5}-3\sqrt{7}) = 4/3$

SUDOKU

1	6	4	5	9	8	7	2	3
5	9	7	1	3	2	8	4	6
2	8	3	6	7	4	5	1	9
6	4	8	7	2	5	9	3	1
3	5	9	4	1	6	2	8	7
8	7	5	9	4	3	1	6	2
7	2	1	3	8	9	6	5	4
4	1	6	2	5	7	3	9	8
9	3	2	8	6	1	4	7	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE I, In, Gin, Gain, Giant, Tagine, Beating.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 - 9 + 7 + 5 = 5
Medium
9 + 7 + 3 + 7 = 26
Hard
2 x 2 x 3 + 4 = 16

LOOP

KAKURO

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